

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Amend claim 1.
2. Cancel claims 16-26.
3. Add new claims 27-34.
4. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.

B. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to recite that the conveying arm contacts the tray to move the tray from a first vacuum chamber to a second adjacent vacuum chamber. Dependent claims 16-26 are canceled. In addition, new claims 27-34 are added. New claims 27-34 all ultimately depend from claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims have separate patentable merit.

C. SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

The Office Action indicates that the Substitute Specification provided with the Amendment filed August 3, 2009 was not entered because Applicants did not state that the Substitute Specification did not add any new matter to the application. The undersigned hereby certifies that the Substitute Specification does not add any new matter to the application. An additional copy of the Substitute Specification is enclosed herewith. The Examiner is requested to enter the Substitute Specification.

D. FORMAL MATTERS

The Office Action rejects claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, because these claims allegedly lack support in the originally filed application. By this amendment, claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 are canceled. Thus, the rejection is moot.

E. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action indicates that claims 8, 9 and 17-19 contain allowable subject matter. The indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation. Because Applicants believe that all claims are now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully declines to rewrite the allowable claims in to independent form at the present time.

F. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS**1. Claims 1, 2, 7 and 21-24**

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,348,139 to Hassan et al. ("Hassan"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,174,881 to Iwasaki et al. ("Iwasaki"). As noted above, claims 21-24 have been canceled. With respect to the remaining claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the conveying arm contacts the tray to move the tray from a first vacuum chamber to a second adjacent vacuum chamber. It is respectfully submitted that the Hassan and Iwasaki references fail to disclose or suggest this feature.

As admitted in Office Action, Hassan only discloses the use of a conveying arm to tilt a section of a semiconductor wafer conveying track. The arm in the Hassan reference does not contact a tray to move a tray between two vacuum processing chambers.

The Iwasaki reference utilizes conveyer belts to convey trays bearing semiconductor wafers between adjacent processing chambers. Thus, Iwasaki also fails to disclose or suggest a conveying arm which contacts a tray to move the tray between two adjacent chambers.

Because the references of record fail to disclose or suggest the above discussed features of independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2 and 7 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features which they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 3 and 16

Claims 3 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hassan, in view of Iwasaki, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0211516 to Rigali et al. (“Rigali”). As noted above, claim 16 have been canceled. With respect to claim 3, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 depends from independent claim 1. As noted above, Hassan and Iwasaki fail to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1. The Rigali reference fails to cure the deficiencies of Hassan and Iwasaki. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 is allowable over Hassan, Iwasaki and Rigali for all the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, and for the additional features which it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

3. Claims 4-6 and 20

Claims 4-6 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hassan, in view of Iwasaki, and in further view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0139481 to Baxter et al. (“Baxter”). As noted above, claim 20 have been canceled. With respect to claims 4-6,, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4-6 depend from independent claim 1. As noted above, Hassan and Iwasaki do not disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1. The Baxter reference fails to cure the deficiencies of Hassan and Iwasaki. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-6 are allowable over Hassan, Iwasaki and Baxter for all the reasons discussed above, and for the additional features which they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-6 is respectfully requested.

G. NEW CLAIMS 27-34

By this Amendment, claims 27-34 are added to the application. The new claims all ultimately depend from claim 1. And as explained above, none of the references of record disclose all of the features of claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted

that claims 27-34 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, and for the additional features which they recite.

H. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Substitute Specification

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